Tanger K 585 c. 8. 7

A

DISCOURSE

Touching

Tanger:

In a

LETTER

To a

PERSON of QUALITY.

LONDON,
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1680.

BRITISH MUSEUM

A DISCOURSE

Touching

Tanger.

Honour'd Sir,

I Remember at our parting, I made you a promiſe to gratifie your curioſity the beſt I could, with an abſtract of my judgment and obſervations, touching his Majeſty's City and Port of *Tanger*: and had obey'd you long ſince, and had not my Head been rather oppreſs'd than employ'd, by the unexpected difficulties of my toylſom charge; which to this

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day render me so little Master of my Resolutions, that the few Minutes I borrow, like broken Slumbers, scarce afford me leave to reflect seriously on any other Subject. Be pleas'd therefore to take this short account only, as an earnest of what you may farther expect, when with more freedom of thought I shall be enabled to send you a Present of the same kind, better worth your acceptance.

Tanger, according to remotest accounts, I find to have been a Colony of the *Romans*; which conquering People did from thence lead their Armies, by which they subdu'd all that part of *Africa*. They call'd a great Province by that name; and thought it so well worth their labour, that they Planted, Peopled, and Built it to the Magnitude of the greatest Cities; as we find by the Fragments of their Structures, where-ever we have occasion to break ground in the Fields; and by the noble Aquæducts; some whereof to this day supply the Town with Water, said to be the best in the World

World. But by the declenſion of that Monarchy, it ſhrunk by degrees to the dimenſion it now bears.

It was here the *Moors* form'd, and from hence proſecuted, their great deſign of conquering *Spain*: the advantageous Situation whereof, is thought to have not only incouraged thoſe Infidels to the Attempt; but lent them ſuch aids, as mainly conduc'd to their ſucceſs.

At length, about the year 1474, while the Princes of *Barbary* were at War amongſt themſelves, this, with other Towns upon the Coaſt, fell into the hands of the *Portuguez*, &c.

Upon his Majeſty's Marriage with our preſent Queen, *Tanger* was given in part of her Dowry: a Capitulation much oppos'd by the *Spaniſh* Miniſters, and gave that Government ſo much apprehenſion, that, upon his Majeſty's ſending ſo great a Garriſon as he did upon our firſt poſſeſſing it, (jealous what deſign there might be) withdrew a great part of their Army from the Frontiers of *Portugal*, and

Quarter'd them along the Coaſt of *Andaluzia*, to have an Eye upon our Motions: by which State-contrivance as is thought of the *Portuguez*, they got the reſpite of one whole Campaign from the Incurſions of the *Spaniard*. This I the rather mention to excite our own value for *Tanger*, which barely our poſſeſſion of, gives other Princes ſo much caution.

This ſufficing for the Hiſtorical part of *Tanger*, to the time of his Majeſty's poſſeſſing it. I will now proceed, with the brevity of a Letter, to treat upon the four following heads, *viz.*

Upon
- The Service *Tanger* has already rendred the Crown.
- What Service it may render it, if improv'd.
- The miſchief it may do us, if poſſeſs'd by any other Powerful Prince.
- Some general Obſervations touching Trade.

Tanger

Tanger is, as I have obſerv'd, ſo advantageouſly Situated, that it Surveys the greateſt Thorough-fare of Commerce in the World; having in one view almoſt the whole Sea comprehended between the four Capes of *Travalgar*, *Gibraltar*, *Spartel*, and *Ceuta*; thoſe on the *European*, theſe on the *African* ſhore: ſo that no Ship or Veſſel can paſs in or out of the *Mediterranean*, unobſerv'd from thence.

It comes therefore to paſs, by means of this narrow Gap or Inlet, that Men of War, Pirats and Corſairs of all Nations, covet to Ply and Cruiz in and about that Station, where they are ſure to ſpeak with all Ships that paſs.

Here it was, that a Squadron of the *Dutch* on two ſeveral occaſions, during that War, lay in wait for our *New-found-land-Fleet*, who had no recourſe for ſafety but to *Tanger*, where they were protected and ſecur'd, till the danger was over: the greateſt part whereof had otherwiſe demonſtrably fallen into the Enemy's hands.

It was on this Station that Sir *Tho-*

mas *Allen*, during the first *Dutch* War, incounter'd their *Smyrna* Fleet; and here, in the last War with *Algier*, a whole Squadron of *Turks* fell into our hands at once, and were all destroy'd: and both then, & since by Sir *John Narbrough*, there has been by a manifold degree more mischief done to that Enemy on this Station, than in all the Ocean besides: and we have frequent examples of single Ships being chased into this Port for shelter.

To this Port, upon the breaking out of the last *Dutch* War, was sent us advice of a Squadron of their Merchant Ships, that were bound from *Malaga* homeward, but ill guarded, with an exact account when they were to depart: which Squadron we incounter'd; and had the Affair been more fortunately manag'd, they had all fallen into our hands; though, as it was, the greatest part were destroy'd and taken.

To this Place, on divers occasions both by Sea and Land, we have received notice from *Salli*, and other places

ces on the Coaſt, of proper Seaſons whereby to Attack that Enemy, and have often ſucceeded in our Attempts upon thoſe intimations: and I think I may with good aſſurance aver, That by the advantage of this Place, we have deſtroy'd more of thoſe Pirates, than all Nations beſides put together, who have been induſtrious to their power to prejudice them; eſpecially the *French*, *Dutch*, and *Portuguez*.

And yet, farther to ſhew you how this Place has been already uſeful, let it be remember'd, that during the Plague in *England*, when it was penal in the higheſt degree in *Spain*, to hold the leaſt Commerce with us; notwithſtanding the hazard they ran, the *Spaniards* themſelves came over by ſtealth, and by degrees did here ſupply their wants, without paying Cuſtom either here or there; this Place being the general Magazine to all the Coaſt along.

What quantities of *French* Commodities were lodg'd here, during their War with *Spain*, and were by little

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and little in *Spaniſh* Veſſels fetch'd over, and put on Board their Gallions when they were ready to receive them, without ever Landing them?

With what eaſe and expedition did Sir *John Narbrough*, the laſt year, Carreen and Refit the Ships under his Command within the Mole; where we had neither Hulk, nor any ſort of Proviſion for that Service? When I often heard him ſay, with great ſatisfaction, That he would undertake to Refit a Squadron in half the time, and with half the charge, that it could be done any where elſe out of *England*: and I think I do not give him more than his due, if I preſume to ſay, he is as qualified for credit in that particular, as any man whatever of his Profeſſion.

How many Merchants Ships in peril by Diſtreſs of Weather have been reliev'd and preſerv'd by the aſſiſtance they have receiv'd from hence?

I could alſo inſiſt on the damages done on the *French* from this Place, during our War with them.

Nor

Nor have the advantages been ſmall ariſing from conſiderable quantities of *Engliſh* Merchandiſe, Manufactures, &c, diſpos'd of hence into *Barbary*; but, having an eye to my promiſe of writing you only a Letter, I ſhall in a word, as to this firſt head, only ſay, That *Tanger* may be juſtly reckon'd to have gon far towards the recompencing to the Government, the charge his Majeſty has been at, in its preſervation and improvement. And if while in its Infancy, when there could be no juſt regulation of the charge, nor the place fram'd and cultivated fully up to the uſes and ends of the Government, we can demonſtrably make ſuch a Calculation; what may be hop'd from it, when beſides the large retrenchment it has already admitted in its charge to the King, we ſhall be able to demonſtrate ſo many farther extraordinary Services it is capable of rendring the Crown, as I doubt not to prove in the following Section.

Which is to ſhew wherein, and to what

what degree, *Tanger* is applicable to the ends and uſes of the Government.

I think I may challenge mankind to point me out, in the whole Globe of the Earth, a ſpot of ground ſo improvable of the honour and intereſt of the *Engliſh* Nation, as *Tanger*.

What is it has rendered *England* ſo formidable, ſo rich, and ſo renown'd a Kingdom; but the ſtrength of our Navyes, and Univerſality of our Commerce? For our Fleeces might grow till they Rot, and our Mines remain in the bowels of their Mother; and our People ruſt into the Barbarity of their Anceſtors, and our Nation become a prey to every aſpiring Monarch; did not this mighty *Machin* ſet all Heads, and Hands a-work, quicken our underſtandings, and poliſh our manners, and from an object otherwiſe of pity, or contempt, render us the greateſt Pattern in the World, of the power of Induſtry, the Fountain of all the Bleſſings we enjoy: And becauſe there are many various Wheels and Motions

ons therein, why ſhould not *Tanger* be eſteem'd among the principal of thoſe movements, which keep this vaſt Engin going?

Firſt, in reſpect of *Spain*, in caſe of a War with that People; he who knows any thing, is not ignorant that the dammages we ſuſtain by ſuch a War, are more through the Embargo of a free and open Commerce with them, ſo uſeful and profitable to this Nation, that it becomes a doubt, whether it be not of more account than one half of the Trade we have with all *Europe* beſides; I ſay, the miſchief in ſuch caſe will be more, by a ſuſpention of our Commerce, than any great damage can arrive us by their hoſtilities: If ſo, then I undertake to ſay, That *Tanger* is able in a good degree, if not totally, to anſwer this great objection. For, by virtue of our vicinity with *Spain*, eſpecially the five principal Ports of *Sevil*, *Cadiz*, St. *Lucar*, Port St. *Mary's*, and *Malaga*; and by the convenience of a good Harbor here, which by the ſucceſs of the

the Mole is now well nigh effected; our Nation there, in caſe of a War, may remove, and ſettle their Factories here: Which, both for the ſafety of their Perſons as well as Eſtates, they need not be invited to do; having to my certain knowledge, ſundry times been upon the point of taking that reſolution like one man, by ſome jealouſies they have had of miſ-underſtandings likely to enſue, betwixt us and that People: And affairs being once ſo ſettled, the *Spaniards* themſelves, as their occaſions preſs them, will take care to be ſupply'd from hence; as in the Inſtance I have given during the Plague of *England*. By this means, our Eſtates run no hazard of ſeizure or Confiſcation. We ſhall be able to put off our Commodities at better rates; and the King of *Spain* wholly depriv'd of his Cuſtoms: *Tanger* it ſelf becomes a proportionable gainer by the bargain, and his Majeſties Subjects reſt under the protection of their own Country Laws and Government, and in the liberty of the exerciſe

exercise of their own Religion.

Thus, as on the one hand *Tanger* renders a War with *Spain*, less burthensome to us, by so preserving the Commerce unbroken; so by its advantagious Situation, and improvement to a good Port, it would prove so great a Thorn in their sides, by the incessant hostilities we should commit upon them, (for it is not two hours Sail from *Tanger* to the Coast of *Spain*) the hazard and obstruction of their *West-India* Trade, the ruining their Commerce one with another all along the Coast of *Andaluzia*, which would certainly ensue; and the sundry other damages by the help of *Tanger*, too long to ennumerate, or not at present occuring to my observation: All this, I say, put together, seems to me to yield matter sufficient to furnish us with the highest sentiments of estimation for *Tanger*, though no other consideration were put into the Scale. For if this whole *Theory*, or *Postulata* be true, (as a good deal is prov'd by matter of Fact, and the rest not to be dis-

proved, but as time muſt try;) then I may undertake to ſay, that the Nation ſeems by *Tanger* to have gain'd this great point, which is, that if heretofore the reaſons touching the importance of preſerving our Commerce with *Spain* have for the moſt been found ſuperiour to the motives (though great) which that People may, by their affronts and injuries, have given his Majeſty of reſentment; thoſe Arguments, I ſay, are by means of *Tanger* removed, and his Majeſty in a better ſtate of demanding ſatisfaction, or doing himſelf right; or the *Spaniard* hereby become conſcious of the diſadvantage, deter'd from thoſe provocations. And that they are apprehenſive of the benefits thus accruing by our poſſeſſion of *Tanger*, is every day viſible from the pains they take to diſcourage its proſperity, by obſtructing by all ways poſſible our ſupplies of whatever kind from thence; eſpecially of materials for carrying on the Mole, *&c.* Whereof they are in great fear: So that, if poſitive arguments in our Favour

vour were leſs cogent, the bare opinion they have of the uſe may be made of *Tanger* in their prejudice, ought to beget in any reaſonable man, who loves, and has any regard to the honour and welfare of his Country, proportionable wiſhes for its incouragement.

But, leaving *Spain*, let us proceed to obſerve what may be of remark touching *Tanger*, with reſpect to *France*.

The *French* Commerce with *Spain*, and their Intereſt in the *Spaniſh* Gallions and Flota, has been univerſally concluded equivalent to half the Nations of *Europe* beſide; and they have more buſineſs in, and about this Station, and frequent the *Streights* mouth with more ſhipping of one ſort or another, than any two Nations in *Chriſtendom*: From whence our Ships riding at Anchor, may weigh, or ſlip, and ſpeak with all that paſs in or out. Now what an awe will *Tanger* bear on ſuch a People; and what greater bleſſing can a Maritime Nation, as *England* is,

ſo juſtly jealous of their Honour and Authority abroad, ask of God Almighty, than to be poſſeſſors of a Place productive of ſo many eminent Services, a place capable of yielding ſo many good Offices to our ſelves, and Friends, and ſo much annoyance to its moſt powerful Enemy? This I mean, who in our Age has ſucceeded ſo far in its deſigns of Rivaling us, in the darling Priviledge and Prerogative of our Dominion upon the Sea; and how far it behoves us to cheriſh the means that Providence affords, and Nature ſeems to mark out for our improvment, towards the attaining of ſo important an end, let every honeſt *Engliſhman* Judge. And from *France*, let us proceed to *Holland*.

During the firſt *Dutch* War, *Tanger* was in its Infancy, the Mole of little benefit, nor were the Miniſters then ſo much enlighten'd in its uſefulneſs; inſomuch, that during that War, the *Hollander* (eſpecially towards the latter end of the War) did with a ſmall Squadron of Ships, ſcour the whole

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Mediterranean: And what with that, and the preferrence they then found in the *Spaniſh* Ports, they gain'd much upon us in thoſe parts. But in the laſt War it was quite otherwiſe; for upon the damage we did their *Malaga* Fleet, from *Tanger*, as I have already obſerved, and the care then taken to have Ships upon that Station, it is obſervable they ſcarce had any Trade within the *Mediterranean* after, during the War: For the *Dutch* are a frugal and wiſe People; and when the charge of their Convoys grow in any degree burthenſom, they chuſe rather to ſuſpend their Trade, than proſecute it with any extraordinary expence or hazard; eſpecially that of the *Mediterranean*.

Now if *Tanger* can produce ſuch effects in our Favour, in caſe of a War with *Holland*, as it has done, and may yet do in a much greater degree; and if it can be in the like manner of uſe to the *Dutch*, in caſe of a War betwixt them and *Spain*, as it has been to *France*, during that War; Then let us allow it an additional ſhare in our praiſe

and eſtimation, and cheriſh it in proportion to theſe farther benefits: And now for *Algier*.

Algier is a Den of ſturdy Thieves, form'd into a Body; by which, after a Tumultuary ſort, they Govern; having the Grand Signior for their Protector, who ſupplies them with Native *Turks* for their Souldiery, which is the greateſt part of their Militia: And they in acknowledgement, lend him their Ships when his Affairs require it. They are grown a rich and powerful People; and by a long practice of Piracy become good Seamen; and when preſt by our Men of War, as of late we have experimented, they fight and defend themſelves like brave men, inferiour I am perſwaded to no people whatever. They have no Commerce, and ſo without any taſte of the benefits of peace, whence their life becomes a continual practice of Robbery; and like Beaſts of the Deſart, only forbear to worry, where by fear, not honeſty, they are deter'd; and yet when hunger pinches,

ches, and a good morſel lyes in their way, they will venture hard for their prey; as may appear by the occaſions given by them for this, and the laſt Wars.

The *Algierines*, I ſay, having no Merchant ſhips, nor any Trade of their own with other Nations, know nothing of the motives Chriſtian Princes generally have of War and Peace; ſo that their Polity and Rule is, whom and how they may Rob and Plunder, with greateſt impunity. Therefore with ſome Nations they will have no peace at all; becauſe they can diſpoil them without hazard. With others, (as our ſelves) they will ſometimes liſten to propoſals of peace; but not as long as they can re-imburſe themſelves upon our Merchant-men, what they ſuffer by our Men of War. Now 'tis worth ones while to conſider how this Wild Beaſt may be tam'd, ſo pernicous to the Trade of the Kingdom; and how far *Tanger* may lend a helping h and in the bringing it to paſs.

I have already given you an account

of the advantage we have of Situation, and how improvable towards the obtaining Dominion in and about theſe Seas; and of the damage the ſhips of *Algier* have already receiv'd on this Station, by the help of *Tanger*.

The *Algerines*, above all others, when at peace with us, do infeſt theſe Seas; this Station being ſeldom without ſome or other of them, cruizing in ſight of the Port: Where they frequently come to an Anchor, and Water, and ſupply themſelves with Neceſſaries, ſell their Prizes, and reap great benefits by the Place.

They have it alſo in their Inſtructions from the Government, to call here, and obſerve how the Mole advances, and the place thrives; and I have been told by the Captains themſelves, who proteſt, that nothing gives them ſo much dread, as the apprehenſion they have of the uſe we may make of *Tanger* againſt them. Inſomuch, that when the Gally arriv'd that was preſented his Majeſty, the *Algerines* look'd upon themſelves as half undone; as the Cap-

Captain of the *Mary-gold*, the laſt *Turks* prize, who was taken off of *Tanger* this War, aſſur'd me. Our *Gally* Frigats likewiſe gave them great awe, as they ſtill do; being a ſort of Veſſels which by the help of *Tanger*, may be much improv'd to their annoyance. And if his Majeſty would pleaſe farther to order the building of Veſſels of War proper and peculiar to this Service and theſe Seas, he would quickly ſee the good effect it would produce, in bringing that People to know themſelves: For though ſome of our *Engliſh* Veſſels ſail as well as the *Algerines*, when clean; yet ſuch are yet but a few, and we muſt alſo ſail a good deal better than they to do our buſineſs upon them. Nor is it leſs demonſtrable to me than a Problem in *Geometry*, (however it may ſeem not ſo much our preſent Subject) that we may build Ships that ſhall in a manifold degree out-ſail our beſt Sailers: Theſe Ships need but be few, and of little charge, and ſhould be always kept in theſe Seas, both in War and Peace. For 'tis the occaſion

makes

makes the Thief; and a Coaſt or Place unguarded is neglected: What ſignifie the ſtrongeſt Walls unmann'd; or all the advantages of Nature, if Induſtry be wanting in their application?

Tanger well manag'd, may be rendred the greateſt ſcourge to the *Algierines* in the World: and may afford them the beſt effects of Friendſhip. For if in time of War we can force them from this ſo beloved Station, and attack them or their Prizes bound in or out; and in time of Peace (which we cannot refuſe them) they can be admitted to make uſe of *Tanger*, and the Port, as their occaſions require; they may perform their Voyages in half the time, and with half the trouble of returning home, to refit and Victual. For theſe *Foxes* prey remote from their holes: and for one Prize they take in the *Mediterranean*, take ten in the wide Ocean. So that in their return homewards, if they can diſpoſe of their purchaſe at better rates here, than they can have there, and can refit again cheaper; What ſhould

ſhould diſcourage their embracing the advantage, which will be great to them, and proportionably ſo to us, by the ſale of their Purchaſe amongſt us, &c?

But, ſays an honeſt man, and a good Chriſtian, this would be a ſcandal to Chriſtendom. To which I reply, It is not thought ſo by the moſt Chriſtian King; nor muſt we think ſo, if we conſider them a Government, qualified to Treat with Chriſtian Princes, as we do: for do not we enter into Articles of Peace with them, which are formally agreed to, and mutually Ratified? If ſo, how can we refuſe them any thing, to which Friendſhip may give them a Title?

Now, if what I have obſerv'd, touching the Government of *Algier*, bear any weight; then this muſt follow, that, upon conviction of the premiſes, they will always eſteem Peace with *England* more Eligible than War, and no temptation whatſoever (as heretofore) can be believ'd will ſuperſede Arguments of ſo much force as thoſe

thoſe we have noted. If ſo, then upon this ſingle bottom, ſeparate from any the foregoing remarks, we may build reaſon ſufficient to fortifie my Poſition, for the cheriſhing and incouraging of this important Place by all means poſſible. For if *Tanger* ſhall appear ſo materially inſtrumental in preſerving a perpetual Peace with *Algier*; then hence alone the expence of keeping it is abundantly defray'd to the Government.

For the charge of one *Algier* War, abſtracted from the conſideration of the ſpoils they commit upon our Commerce during ſuch War; I ſay, the Money expended for carrying on, and ſupporting of one ſuch a War, being put into Bank, would at *6 per Cent.* produce more than the Annual charge of maintaining the Place. If ſo, how may we then reckon of *Tanger*, conſider'd conjunctive of all the foregoing Calculations of benefit that have been produc'd in its favour? Then, as for *Salli*;

Salli is a Government depending on the

the Emperour of *Fez* and *Morocco*. They have but ſmall Ships; the Bar before the Port not affording depth for Veſſels of above 10 or 12 foot draught of Water. All the Winter they lie ſtill. For after the *South-weſt* winds have blown, there comes in ſo great a ſwell of a Sea upon the Bar, that it is not paſſable: So that this is a Summer Enemy, and a very poor one too, if we would be perſwaded to have an eye to them, as we ought. For I'll undertake, with three or four ſmall Frigats, ſuch as the *Drake*, *Lark*, &c. which on occaſion of Neap Tides, when they (I mean the *Sally-men*) have not Water to go in and out, ſhould clean and re-victual at *Tanger*, and ſo return upon that Station; thoſe inconſiderable Rogues would by ſuch care be ſoon reduc'd to nothing: and yet, when left to their liberty, they do a great deal of miſchief to ſmall Merchant-men.

The benefit ariſing by thus awing thoſe People (beſides that to our ſmall Craft) will be, that it will in two or three

three year bring the greateſt part of Trade of *Barbary* to *Tanger*; as by reaſon of the Plague has been already made good: For while the Infection of thoſe Countries kept people from Trading thither, all, or the greateſt part of their Commerce, was by *Tanger*: and a War diligently manag'd by thoſe ſmall Frigats, may produce the ſame effect. Beſides, it will teach them to value our Friendſhip, and help us to a better underſtanding with them at *Tanger*, and in all likelihood gain us a point of great advantage: which is, to Treat and conclude a Peace with them upon equal terms. For, to buy a Peace (as hath been the practice hitherto) is ſo mean and diſhonourable, and gives them ſo much contempt for our Friendſhip, that it is not to be ſupported.

Now if theſe ends are to be obtain'd, (as I am truly convinc'd they may) it will be wholly owing to *Tanger*. Which having ſaid, I proceed to my third and laſt head.

If *Tanger* be a Jewel of ſo many extra-

traordinary virtues, and ſo peculiar to the uſe and ſervice of the *Engliſh* Nation, 'twere a great deal of pity it ſhould adorn any Prince's Crown, but his who wears it: For, it is but inverting the Argument, and the Artillery is travers'd upon our ſelves, and all theſe Cordials become ſo many Corroſives. For though the bare loſs, or want of theſe benefits, to a Nation of our Circumſtances, would be misfortune enough; yet, when out of this privation of good (which is a conſequential damage) ſhall be propagated ſo many more and greater poſitive Evils to us, than its poſſeſſion promiſes of ſervice (for ſuch will be the conſequence, if *Tanger* (which God forbid) ſhould come into the poſſeſſion of the *French*) with what care and tenderneſs ought the Government to cheriſh it, and labour to ſecure it and the Nation, againſt ſuch a hazard? The Trade of *England* into the *Mediterranean*, is equal, if not exceeding all other Nations put together. Can any thing then challenge a greater ſhare in our eſteem,

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than the means which insure this mighty benefit to us? Shall Princes War one upon another for the sake of a paltry Town, upon the pass of a simple River; and shall not we think it worth our while to preserve a Place of this importance: so productive of good on the one hand, or evil on the other? A place so improveable of the ambitious purposes of the *French*, that were it in their hands, it would wound us in so many tender places, that as we should be always groaning under the weight, so we should never wipe off the Imputation such a loss would fasten upon us. We are just now Alarm'd with the news of *Tanger's* being to be sold to the *French*. But we have a wise Prince, learned beyond his Predecessors in the interests and advantages of Navigation and Commerce, and a great promoter thereof: Nor is his Royal Highness, who has signaliz'd himself so much, to the Nations and his own glory, by his singular applications to the like study, so ill possess'd of the value of this Place, to concur in any deliberations of that kind.

kind. So that I reckon this Rumor but among the other Libels againſt the Government.

How clamorous was our Nation upon the diſpoſing of *Dunkirk* to the *French*, though the charge of keeping it was ſcarce ſupportable; and in caſe of a War with that People hardly tenable? Though the uſe of it was only in ſome degree privative of benefit to an Enemy in caſe of War, but of no poſitive profit to us in time of Peace; and yet whenſoever a Privateer or two ſailing out of that Port, ſhal annoy us but never ſo little in time of War, the complaint is renewed, and that proceeding cenſur'd a-freſh: How would that Miniſter then be abſolved with the People, who ſhould adviſe the parting with *Tanger*; where our little finger would be more felt, than our loyns here?

But I have heard grave men ſay, *Tanger* is a great charge to the Nation. 'Tis a charge, 'tis true; but I ſhew what it has already done towards the defraying it; and to what an a-

bundant degree it will hereafter come to diſcount the expence. A firſt rate Ship, in time of War, is as great a charge to the King, as *Tanger* is: And yet, did ever any body complain that our Ships were a burthen, or our Fleets too numerous, when there was occaſion for their Service? Does not *Tanger* live principally upon the growth and product of *England*; and the money, for the moſt part, circulate among our ſelves? Is the King's Treaſure miſ-employ'd there? Don't we ſee every day the place improve; the Mole in a good forwardneſs? Which expence too will ſoon be at an end. Are there not many uſeful proviſions made, for the encourageing of Shipping and Commerce? And are we not ſenſible of it, by the increaſe and improvement thereof? For I remember the time, when a Boat from *Spain* would draw down half the Town to the Water-ſide; whereas now a Squadron of Ships ſcarce excites that curioſity.

Legorn

Legorn, now a famous Port, and Scale of Trade, was in this Duke of *Florence*'s Grandfather's time a poor Fiſher Town. Maturity is the Child of Time; and though God Almighty may blaſt the beſt form'd purpoſes; yet nothing, humanly ſpeaking, can prevent our fruition of the great benefits I have enumerated, if we but apply the means; which in a few words are theſe.

To proſecute vigorouſly the works of the Mole; which in two or three years, may render it a noble and ſafe Port.

To fortifie the Town to the Landward; Which work ſhould go hand in hand with the Mole; leſt when it ſhall appear worth a Conqueſt, our weakneſs ſhould betray us.

To have a Garriſon conſiſting of two thouſand Foot, in two Regiments, and three hundred Horſe; to be well and duly paid, and to be recruited

once in three or four years, by draughts out of the Guards: By which means we ſhould always have a ſtrong, orderly, and well-diſciplin'd Souldiery; and not vagabonds, and raw, miſerable, ſhiftleſs wretches, ſuch as rais'd men for the moſt part prove; whereof ſcarce the one half ſurvive their ſeaſoning.

The punctuality of relieving the Garriſon (as has been of late reſolv'd) will alſo keep them in heart, chearful in their Duty, and not put them upon ſuch deſperate courſes, as many of them in melancholly drunken fits have taken, by running to the *Moors*; where, to the ſcandal of our Religion, they either turn *Renegades*, or remain in perpetual ſlavery. The health of the Garriſon will alſo by this practice be preſerv'd; for the Souldiers diet being ſalt meat, diſpoſes them in two or three years to inveterate ill habits of body, Obſtructions, Scurvies, Fluxes, *&c.* Whereof by reaſon of returning to the ſame diet again, when

when a little mended by the care of the Phyſician, they relapſe; and nothing but removing them to a better can recover them.

By this courſe I ſay, *Tanger* would be the deſirableſt place for a Souldier in the World, where they neither feel hunger, or cold, nor exceſs of heat; the duty eaſie, unleſs now and then, when the Garriſon is thin of men: Where an induſtrious man can never want work, and is no where better rewarded: In brief, 'tis a place that, inſtead of a Sepulcher as ſome call it, will by this method become a Nurſery of brave men; where, if they dye in the Field, as ſome now and then do, they have their reward in Heaven: If they ſurvive to ſee their Country; they will be cheriſh'd and conſider'd at home, as men of honour and merit, who have drawn their Swords, and ſerv'd their King and Country, againſt the Enemies of our Religion, and of God himſelf.

The uſe of Horſe is of ſo great importance, to the ſafety and tranquility of the Place, that I take it for granted we ſhall never be free from the inſults of the *Moors*, till our Horſe ſhall be augmented to the aforeſaid number.

The ſtrength of all the Chriſtian Garriſons upon this Coaſt, principally conſiſts in Horſe: Which example alone might ſuffice for our inſtruction; for we are but of yeſterday; and their practice the reſult of ſome Ages of experience, which is the beſt guide.

This Town was once preſerv'd, or rather recover'd, by the bravery and opportune Service of the Horſe; for the Caſtle being ſurpris'd in the Night by the Enemies privately getting in over a low and defective part of the Wall, the Horſe taking the Alarm in the Town, mounted, and before they could get poſſeſſion of the draw-bridge, got in, attack'd, and defeated them; who had otherwiſe demonſtrably remain'd with Victory.

I am bold alſo to ſay, and it is the Opinion of others who were upon the Place, that had our Horſe, the day the Earl of *Tiviot* was loſt, perform'd their Duty; that great Man, and the *major* part of thoſe with him, had eſcap'd the Fatal ſlaughter.

With ſuch a ſtrength of Horſe as this I propoſe; we ſhall not be only able to perform with eaſe what is yet wanting for the fortifying and Securing the ground we have gain'd; but deprive the Enemy of the profit they make by the Tillage and Paſture of the Country round about us: For they will be neceſſitated either to keep an Army conſtantly in the Field, which we know they cannot; to loſe the benefit and fruits of one of the fertileſt ſpots of Ground in the World: or allot us ſuch Conditions, as ſhall render us in a ſafe, eaſie, and plentiful Eſtate; which I take aſſurance to affirm we ſhall, in ſuch caſe, eaſily obtain.

As the benefits we ſhall reap by ſuch a number of Horſe, prudently manag'd, will be very great; ſo the hardſhips we ſhall ſuffer without them will be inſuperable: For the ground about *Tanger* being uneven, broken, and proper for Ambuſhes; our Foot will never be able to do any thing to the purpoſe, but in Conjunction of a proportionable number of Horſe, to diſcover and clear the ground, relieve and ſuccour them when preſs'd, and ſecure their retreat when out-number'd and forc'd to retire.

Our Fortifications alſo; relieving our Forts, and many other eminent Services, will be but very imperfectly perform'd without the aſſiſtance of a good body of Horſe.

The fruits of this care and charge will be reap'd, in the benefits reſulting by the Trade and Commerce it will beget and eſtabliſh here; for upon a ſecure proſpect of ſafety to Goods and Merchandiſe, both by Sea and Land,

Land, and exemption from publick Charges and Duties, and a general concurrence of all circumſtances of eaſe and expedition in Importing and Exporting of goods, will in time render *Tanger* the general Magazine of all the Merchandiſe from the *Levant* appointed for the Trade of the *Spaniſh Indies*, as it will of our *Northern* Commodities of greateſt value: For the exorbitant, or rather inſupportable Duties upon Goods in *Spain*, puts all People upon By-ways, and ſecret hazardous practices, in the Shipping and diſpoſing of their Commodities; and while *Tanger* can yield ſo good incouragement, conſidered with the benefits of its vicinity with *Spain*, all People will covet to lodge their Eſtates there, where the whole charge (beſides their being out of the reach of danger of ſeizure) of Regiſter Money, which is our quarter *per Cent.* there Collected; Commiſſion; Porterage; Freight to *Cadiz*, &c will not amount to the charge of half Freight, Guard-money,

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National Duties, and Ware-houſe room for two Months.

But there occurs one great and dangerous impediment to the eſtabliſhing this benefit at *Tanger*; and that is the diſputes that may ariſe, betwixt the *Engliſh* Conſuls in the *Spaniſh* Ports, and ſuch as ſhall ſo Tranſport Goods from *Tanger*, upon which they may expect a benefit: but this muſt be forbidden by all means poſſible, by the ſtricteſt ſignifications of his Majeſties pleaſure in that behalf to his reſpective Conſuls upon the Coaſt; for there are ſo many inconveniencies accompanying ſuch a permiſſion, as would quite deſtroy all hopes of ſucceſs in this affair: and indeed 'tis to be fear'd this very objection, or rather impoſition, has already adminiſtred no ſmall diſcouragement. But as the intereſt of private men muſt ſubmit and give place to publick Utility; ſo in caſe it appear that this proceeding ſhall in any conſiderable degree affect the Conſuls in the reſpective profits and emoluments of their Office,

Office, it may be recompenc'd to them ſome other way: But I do humbly propoſe it, as fundamental and irrevocable, that no Conſul whatſoever of the *Engliſh* Nation, be permitted to exact or demand a peny for any Goods exported from *Tanger*, to any of the *Spaniſh* Ports; but that a bare Certificate from the Government there, of ſuch Goods Shipt either in *Engliſh* or Forreign Veſſels, ſhall ſerve as an ample acquitment, and intitle them to exemption from all ſcrutinies and demands of the Conſuls of any kind whatſoever.

It is alſo humbly propos'd, that all Ships and Veſſels of War, as ſhall by appointment attend the Garriſon and Port of *Tanger*, may have ſpecial leave and permiſſion from the Lord High Admiral of *England*, to receive on Board, and Tranſport ſuch Goods to *Cadiz*, or any where in the Neighborhood, as the Merchants ſhall have occaſion to imbark; but not unleſs ſuch Ship or Veſſel be bound to ſuch and ſuch

ſuch a Place for his Majeſty's ſervice: By this means, Merchandiſe will go ſafer and cheaper, obtain quicker diſpatch; and the Trader conſequently another good incouragement to proſecute this way of Commerce.

It is farther humbly propos'd, that all Convoys outward bound which touch not at *Cadiz*, as the *Turky* Ships, &c. may have order to call at *Tanger*; as alſo all ſuch as are homeward bound: which being once become an eſtabliſhed practice; People, as well Foreigners, and others, will lodge their Money there, to be imbark'd for *Turkey*, &c. And from the *Levant*, Merchants will load their Commodities deſign'd for *Cadiz*, or the *Spaniſh Indies*, in *Engliſh* Bottoms, to be depoſited in *Tanger*, from whence they may require them as their affairs ſhall govern: By which means our Shipping alſo will be much incourag'd. This I urge not but with ſubmiſſion to the ſence of the *Turky* Company, who are the fitteſt Judges how far ſuch a practice

ctice may Influence their Trade. And thus much touching Trade in general, with reſpect to *Tanger*.

There is no Poſition, as I have obſerv'd, that bears more of the evidence of a Demonſtration, than that of the reduceableneſs, and extirpation (by the help of *Tanger*) of the Piracy of *Salli*, and all the Coaſt of *Barbary*: which, beſides the main benefit of relieving the general Commerce, will bring as a conſequence the greateſt part of that Trade to *Tanger*. For thoſe ſmall Frigats as ſhall be employ'd againſt *Salli*, (with whom it is preſum'd we are never to have a Peace, upon no Conſideration whatſoever) ſhall have it in their Inſtructions (as the *French* proceeded during their War with *Tunis*) to obſtruct all Commerce with that People, but by way of *Tanger*; which may be done without any great offence, by compelling ſuch as they find Trading upon the Coaſt to go to *Tanger*, there to unload,

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in order to the ſearching after Contraband Goods; where, if they are found guilty, as moſt Traders thither are, the forfeiture of their Goods, and the trouble that in ſuch caſe will be given them, will be ſure to deter them from a ſecond attempt: if they are innocent, the vexation of being carry'd out of their way, their detention at *Tanger*, the incident charge, expence of time, hazard, and one incumbrance or another, will incline them either to forbear Trading with *Barbary* at all, or by way of *Tanger*; where they will not fail of incouragement; for by thus obſtructing the Trade of *Salli*, the *Moors* pinch'd through the want of our Commodities, will make their next recourſe to *Tanger*, where finding good reception and diſpatch, the Commodities of the Country which were wont to be carry'd to *Salli*, having no vent there, will fail; and the ſtream of Commerce of courſe be diverted hither: and when once the road is beaten, it will not be eaſily broken.

ken. This too, as it brings the *Moors* to ſeek us, will conſequently draw ſuch as were wont to Trade to *Salli*, to *Tanger*.

But it muſt be the care of the Government here, to diſcourage to the utmoſt the reſidence of *Engliſh* Factories any where upon the Coaſt, but at *Tanger*: by which means mens perſons and Eſtates are ſecure againſt the inſolence and Caprice of that Barbarous People; who, upon trivial and unjuſt pretences, make ſeizure of all; whereof we have recent Inſtances, the effect whereof we yet feel, and we at *Tanger* often become as it were Hoſtages, and compell'd (neither to the praiſe of our Honour, or Politicks) to make ſuch Conceſſions as are both dangerous and ſcandalous, and all out of a tenderneſs to a ſtubborn, opinionative People, who like ſome Animals, rather than make a ſtep out of their own way, will go over a Houſe.

And

And here I may not omit to obſerve, that, as generous a People as we are, there are yet among us a ſort of Men of the moſt degenerate abandon'd Principles, who continue that ſordid, or rather impious practice of ſupplying theſe Infidels with Powder, Guns, and all ſorts of Warlike Stores, even while we are in actual War with them both by Sea and Land; againſt not only the Law of Nations, but even Humanity it ſelf: which guilty, ſcandalous, and unchriſtian proceeding I truſt to ſee puniſh'd, as it deſerves; and if our Laws prove defective, in that particular, our Legiſlators may be humbly mov'd to find expedients in this behalf.

The next uſeful conſideration towards the improvement of the Place, is to incourage, by all means poſſible, the Magiſtracy and Civil Government; and this will invite People of Subſtance to ſettle and abide here: the repu-

reputation of our Juſtice and Probity, will be a means of ſupplying us with a greater number of able and honeſt Citizens; and thoſe will ſupport the honour of our Courts, and maintain the dignity of a Corporation. This is very eſſential to the eſtabliſhment of new beginners, as we are; and, of all points, the hardeſt to compaſs.

In the next place, it is my humble opinion, that his Majeſty might be prevail'd with to let Leaſes to the Inhabitants, for ſuch a term of years as might incourage them to rebuild their dwellings, which are much decay'd, and will fall to the ground, unleſs ſome ſuch proviſion be made to prevent it: and this, in time, will alſo much increaſe the Publick Revenue.

I do farthermore humbly obſerve, that the want of a poſitive Deciſion, touching the Freedom of the Port, has occaſion'd much contention and inconvenience amongſt us; and great hurt to

the Place: For unleſs it be underſtood to be a free Port, as *Legorn*, *Marſeilles*, &c. which Places ought to be our Rule and Example in that particular; we ſhall be rather a Trap and a Snare to People, than an incouragement and protection. For many an honeſt Man's misfortunes have reduc'd him to Poverty; and when invited hither, by a notion of that freedom and Liberty which other Ports, bearing that Title, yield to ſuch as put themſelves under their Protection, in hopes of a peaceable application to the repairing their broken Fortunes, they ſhall be here vext and moleſted with Suits & Impriſonments; People will ſhun us, as an infected Place: and that great benefit which other Ports of this ſort reap, and is ſo eſſential to the growth and proſperity of this, is forfeited. I would not here be underſtood to make *Tanger* a Den of Thieves, where *Barataria*, and other infamous practices of ill men, ſhould have incouragement; but humbly propoſe only, that our Superiours

Superiours would pleaſe to inform themſelves, wherein thoſe Ports which are call'd Free differ from others, and what thoſe exemptions and Priviledges are which give them that Name; and from thence form and eſtabliſh ſuch a Conſtitution, as may for ever put us out of pain: for this Conſtructive, or rather equivocal Freedom, as I may call it, which we have hitherto been under, can never turn the Place to account.

I might farther multiply inſtances, wherein, in time, by the Wiſdom and Favour of Authority, and the care and induſtry of the People, this Place may be render'd productive of ſundry profitable improvements, touching Trade, Manufactures, Fiſheries of *Tunny*, *Anchovas*, *&c.* which in the end would ſupport the Government: But I here put an end to your trouble, ſumming up all in this ſhort Animadverſion.

That *Tanger*, like the uſefulleſt Ele-

ments, as it may be made an admirable Servant; ſo it may be render'd a ſevere Maſter. 'Tis an outwork of the Nation, which you know is a principal ſtrength of a Fortreſs; 'tis a ſafe Port, a Magazine, a Scale of Trade, and a Community of brave and loyal Men, where there is no appearance of Faction againſt either Church or State. 'Tis a Place improveable to the utmoſt degree of the Intereſt and Honour of the *Engliſh* Nation, of Vexation and Damage to our Enemies, and Service to our Friends; and conſequently of influencing our Treaties and Alliances, with the moſt powerful of our Neighbours. I have often heard the Earl of *Sandwich* obſerve all this, and more of *Tanger*; with whom it had ſo ſuperlative an eſteem, that he was wont to ſay, If it could be Wall'd and Fortifi'd with Braſs, it would repay the charge: and I doubt not, if our misfortunes or Sins do not prevent it, but Poſterity, in the Annals of our Hiſtory, ſhall read the Acquiſition and Improvement

ment of *Tanger* among the Felicities of his Majesty's Reign; whom God Almighty prosper, and send us a happy meeting: which is the constant Prayer of

Honoured Sir,

Tanger Octob. 20. 1679.

Your most humble and faithful Servant.

FINIS.